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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5451
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES PRIORITY
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SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND THE LIBERIA PARTNERS' FORUM

REF: SECSTATE 201818

In response to the Embassy's encouragement to participate in the February Liberia Partner's Forum (reftel), Portuguese MFA Director of Sub-Saharan African Affairs Nuno Bello approached the Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance (IPAD) about the possibility of sending a representative, but is unable to confirm anything yet. Portugal has contributed to the UN observer Program in Liberia, and supported the EU "ECHO Program" but has no ongoing bilateral programs.

Comment: Due to Portugal's lack of bilateral engagement with Liberia, it is likely that they will send a Portuguese Embassy official to participate rather than a participant from Lisbon. End comment.

O'Neal